



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: Pupil Transportation Providers

FROM: Julie Stark, Interim Director
Grants Coordination and School Support

DATE: May 20, 2004

SUBJECT: Clarification of Current Law Regarding Red Light Bus Stops

The issue of the position of school bus stops requiring the use of alternately flashing red lights has been debated over the past year. Upon review of the statute, training curriculum, and current practices, the conflict was discerned.

Roadway, as defined in MCL 257.55, is "... that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel..."

PA 187 of 1990, the Pupil Transportation Act, Section 257.1855 (2) (a) and (b) (as amended in PA 49 of 2000) read, in part: If the pupils are required to cross the roadway, "... stop the bus as far to the right side of the roadway or private road as is possible to provide for the safety of the pupils being boarded or discharged..."

It is our understanding that a number of districts allow their school buses to pull the bus off or partially off the roadway (onto the shoulder) when performing a red light stop. The current Beginning School Bus Driver Curriculum, Unit VI, entitled "*Loading and Unloading Passengers*", identifies a 17-step red light bus stop procedure. Step 5 reads: "Pull as far to the right as possible and stop (all or part way off the roadway)." This procedure in the curriculum will be amended to conform to current statute. Training agencies will be receiving a rewrite of this section. Beginning in June, all training will reflect the correct red light stop procedure.

Pulling off the roadway during a red light stop violates statute. The department expects that pupil transportation provider will adhere to the law when determining the positioning of school buses, while receiving and discharging pupils.

While this change in training reflects current law, please be aware that legislation may be introduced in the fall, which would address this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Howell, Grants Coordination and School Support, Michigan Department of Education, at (517) 373-6388

cc: ISD Superintendents

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